

7.0 MAP QUALITY

FEMA continues to be committed to map quality. In the FY04-FY08 MHIP (Version 1.0), November 2004, FEMA defined an approach to relate the level of study to the level of risk for flood studies.

In section 7 of the FY04-FY08 MHIP (Version 1.0), November 2004, FEMA introduced a refined mapping standard for flood hazard studies:

- FEMA stated that maps should match the best available topography
- FEMA also stated that flood hazards should be grouped into five classes of characteristics that correspond to various levels of risk, or risk classes, shown in table 7-1. FEMA then identified specific components of studies (topographic data, survey methodology, and modeling and mapping techniques) and suitable methods of analysis for each risk class.

Table 7-1. Risk Classes of Flood Hazards

Risk Class	Characteristics	Typically Achieved By	Delineation - Reliability of the Flood Boundary ¹
A	High population and densities within the floodplain, high anticipated growth	Zones AE, VE, AO, AH	± 0.5 foot / 95%
B	Medium population and densities within the floodplain, modest anticipated growth	Zones A and AE	± 1.0 foot / 95%
C	Low population and densities within the floodplain, small or no anticipated growth	Zones A and AE	$\pm \frac{1}{2}$ contour / 90%
D	Undetermined risk; likely subject to flooding	Zone D	N/A
E	Minimal risk of flooding; area not studied	(area not mapped)	N/A

Note: 1 - The difference between the ground elevation (defined from topographic data) and the computed flood elevation.

FEMA is developing a process to implement the standards set forth in section 7 of the FY04-FY08 MHIP (Version 1.0), November 2004. FEMA is incorporating these standards into the *Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners*. Additional information and updates on FEMA's Guidelines and Specifications are available on FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping Web site at http://www.fema.gov/fhm/gs_main.shtm.

Also, FEMA is currently addressing comments submitted regarding section 7 of the FY04-FY08 MHIP (Version 1.0), November 2004.

